**SO WHAT Committee Meeting Minutes**

Wednesday 13th March 2013

1. **Important Updates**
   1. **Meeting at Blackburn Hall – Andrew Bodman AGAHST**

* A call was put out to see if anyone has access to a projector and/or screen. Please contact the main email address as soon as possible if you can help out.
* A request was made for a handful of people to arrive at Blackburn Hall at 7.30pm (30 mins before the meeting) to help get the room ready. A number of people stated that they would be happy to do so.
* A reminder email will be sent out to all those on the mailing list, and leaflets distributed to households on The Locks, The Maltings, & Farmers Hill estates.
* It has been advised that there is a maximum capacity of 200 allowed at this venue.
* Andrew from AGHAST will have 12 copies of DVDs which shows a 3D affect of the HS2 line on the landscape. The DVDs cost £2 each and can be distributed and exchanged as necessary. It was agreed by the committee that the cost of these DVDs can come from SO WHAT funds.
  1. **News Updates**
* Rothwell Record featured a good article on the proposed line. If you haven’t read it yet it’s worth a look. We have also been allowed to use their mock-up picture for our leaflet.
* Everyone has now received a letter from Alec Shelbrooke MP. Peter Holley advised that he had corresponded further with Mr Shelbrooke to clarify his position. It seems that he is only proposing to move the junction with the spur off to Church Fenton – the line would still pass the Maltings and the Locks as already proposed. We believe Mr. Shelbrooke hasn’t done any investigative work into moving the line.
* We need to encourage people to contact Mr Shelbrooke to clarify his position.
* The results of 5 judicial reviews brought about by the STOP HS2 Alliance Group are due to be announced on Friday 15th March. The results of these could mean the government is forced to go back to the drawing board. Keep an eye on the news!
* There was an article in the week’s Independent on Sunday newspaper outlining how the project had already cost £253m in consultative and marking fees. This is against the backdrop of Leeds City Council having to save £50m which will ultimately affect front line services to citizens across Leeds.
* Worth a look: Margaret Hodge You Tube videos (search: ‘margaret hodge hs2 you tube’).
* James and Dayle are to meet Cllr Blackburn from the Green Party on 7th April to show how the project will blight the landscape – another ally! – Updates to follow.
* Neil from The Locks has made a useful ally in Dr Richard Wellings from the Institute of Economic Affairs. Dr Wellings has sent a few copies of their report ‘High Speed 2: the next government project disaster’. Copies are available to distribute if you’re interested. We will try and get this scanned in as well to email out.
* Contact has been made by residents of Garforth who would like to join forces with our campaign. Communication is being made with volunteers who could help organise and coordinate the campaign in that area.
* Councillor Golton has made a request to the Chief Executive of Leeds City Council for some staff of HS2 Ltd to be based at Civic Hall, so they can be more responsive to the public.
* Set up ‘Google Alerts’ to get news stories sent directly to your email address to keep up to date.
* A business conference is to be held in Leeds next month with the Chief Executive of HS2 – are we going?

1. **Delegation of Tasks and Progress**
   1. **Funding Strategy**

* A PAYPAL account is now up and running. Up to 20 people are eligible to access this account. Currently 2 people are set up to use this.
* Still waiting on Lloyds TSB to get back to us with the progress of the bank account. Mark will chase them up.
* It has previously been agreed by the committee if everyone can donate £5 per household to help cover costs. Whilst the PAYPAL account is set up and can be used via the website, there is a cost in using this method and therefore may be advisable to wait a little longer until the Lloyds TSB is set up.
* A general email will be posted out to all on the mailing list asking for donations.
* Gordon advised he would be happy to speak to local business to see if there are any funding opportunities here.
* We need to consider ideas for fundraising. Ideas which were mentioned at the meeting and which could be explored, included:
  + Raffles at The Pointers (and other local public houses)
  + Bag packing at Morrisions
  + Stalls at Rothwell fayres on May Day, in July, and at Christmas with a tombola
  + A stall at Rothwell Beer Festival 29th June.
  1. **Marketing/PR**
* It was agreed we need more banners/advertising to promote our campaign.
* 5,000 leaflets are being printed for distribution around the area. Please register your interest in leafleting with James and Dayle at the group email address.
* Banners should be sited on private land to avoid any backlash from Leeds City Council. Peter is to speak to Les Appleyard to see if banners can be positioned on his land at the entrance to Pottery Lane.
* Other land should be explored such as that maintained by the Canal Trust.
* Stickers on wheelie bins, banners and leafleting.
* Gordon is to speak to a friend in respect of printing costs etc.
* Louise Drake is working on a communications plan and will report back shortly.
* Please get in touch with any suggestions which can be added to the website, Facebook and Twitter.
  1. **Lobbying**
* Contact details of MPs, the Chief Executive of Leeds City Council and others are to be listed on the website.
* Templates will be considered to make it as easy as possible to lobby the people at the top.
* We need everyone to lobby as much as possible and to spread the word to family and friends to do the same.
* UKIP & Greens are mainstream political parties against the HS2 plan. Contact is to be made with Godfrey Bloom MEP for Yorkshire.
  1. **Freedom of Information Requests**
* Requests are to be submitted on topics such as:
  + How many properties will be affected
  + What is designated as urban and what is rural
* A response is required within 20 working days – an update will be made at the next meeting.
  1. **Contacting Other Groups/Organisations**
* A database will be set up to get an understanding of the overall landscape of groups and organisations involved in the anti-HS2 at a local and national level.
* If you can offer any help here, please get in touch.
  1. **Business Case Analysis**

1. **Any Other Business**

* Ed Cartwright provided some information from a recent BNP Paribas conference:
  + When the hybrid bill goes through Parliament, if anyone feels there are any discrepancies it can be referred to the Select Committee.
  + A Human Rights angle is a possibility as it could be viewed that the proposal is affecting our quality of life.
* James is to draft a speech for a future slot at a full council meeting and send to Ed to review and comment on.
* Consultation on the Extreme Hardship Fund closes at the end of April. It is important that everyone submits a response to this. Get your friends and family to comment as well.
  + Dayle and Jo will provide guidance to everyone to help complete this.
  + A joint committee response will also be submitted.